

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Zoning ordinance is being drafted

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Franklin Township Secretary/Treasurer Rick Melvin at 333-5131 for more information about the drafted zoning ordinance.

Franklin Township Planning Commission members are working out the final touches on a new zoning ordinance that will be ready for the supervisors' vote early next year.

The commission has been working on the zoning ordinance since July, after the township approved its first-ever comprehensive plan. The code upgrades were made possible via a \$100,000 grant the township received from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development in 2009.

Planning Commission Chairman Frank Hilstosky has been a part of the commission for more than 20 years and has worked on various ordinances throughout his time. The new, more comprehensive zoning ordinance addresses issues that may affect Franklin Township in the future, which, he said, is difficult to predict.

"You have to plan for growth," said Hilstosky. "Dallas and Kingston Township have built up over the years - even Exeter Town-

ship. They are now encroaching on Franklin Township."

The commission discussed an article relating to signage on Dec. 1, and many of the regulations for billboards, electronic signs and other advertising measures don't currently apply to what exists in the township - yet.

"With zoning, if you have a lot of items left out, it's worse than having a long document that addresses everything," said Carson Helfrich of Community Planning and Management Associates.

The commission is also working on updating the zoning map, though Hilstosky said there are no major changes to current districts.

Much of the zoning ordinance pertains to business development, including what businesses

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Lake-Lehman High School students preparing for "A Christmas Carol," are, from left, first row, Jessica Salus, Julia Bucholtz, Megan Rusonis, Paige Robbins, Julia Pilch, Jenna Mortenson, Carly Trapani and Lauren Zeisloft. Second row, Marissa Moku, Corey Nevel, Emily Mieczkowski, Aleah Ashton, Shannon Allabaugh, Jasmine Moku, Sara Tronsue, Karlie Lobitz, Sierra Titius, Corrine Tronsue. Third row, Katie Kaminsky, Amanda May, Hannah Kasko, Hunter Lefkoski, Raine Scott, Rebecca Rosser, Justin Lansberry, Sequoia Saxe, Mikayla Orrson, Samantha O'Neill, Sierra Pall, Stephanie Chaga, Cassidy Borger. Fourth row, Bethany Taylor, Domi Glatz, Victoria DeCesaris, Madison Stambaugh, Paige Hettesheimer, Precious Mowery, Chris Covert and Jon King.

'A Christmas Carol' comes to Lehman

Lake-Lehman High School presents "A Christmas Carol," a full stage holiday musical theatre featuring traditional carols and characters at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18 in the ju-

nior/senior high school auditorium.

This family-friendly stage adaptation features a cast of over 50 elementary, middle school and high school students, including Hunter Lef-

koski as Ebenezer Scrooge, Raine Scott as Beth Cratchit, Hannah Kasko as Tiny Tim, Mikayla Orrson as Marley, Sam O'Neill as Spirit of Christmas Past, Julia Whitesell as Spirit of Christmas Present

and Jon King as Spirit of Christmas Future.

Tickets, at \$8 for adults and \$6 for students, are available at the Volunteer Box Office, by calling 675-1761 or by e-mail at LehmanTheatre@aol.com.

L-LSCHOOL DISTRICT

Board members sworn in

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Three new Lake-Lehman School Board members were sworn into office Monday night, and two others continued their school board careers.

Board members Richard Bombick, Karen Masters and James



RICHARD BOMBICK



JAMES WELBY



KAREN MASTERS



WALTER GLOGOWSKI



MARK KORNOSKI

Welby took an oath of office as presented by Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Judge Tina Polachek Gartley.

Bombick has served as the district's business manager in the past, and Welby previously served on the board of school directors. Masters is a newcomer to

the school board.

Board members Mark Kornoski and Walter Glogowski were also sworn into office for another term.

Kornoski was selected as president, Glogowski as first vice president and Welby as second vice president.

Glogowski was elected to serve as a member of the West Side Career and Technical Center Joint Operating Committee until 2013, and Masters was selected to serve until 2014.

Glogowski will serve as the board's state School Board Association representative.

The following committee positions were also filled: Kevin Carey will head curriculum and instruction, David Paulauskas and Andrew Salko will co-chair athletics and activities, Welby will head buildings and grounds, Bombick will lead transportation, Masters will chair support

services, Salko will lead finance and Kornoski will head school board matters.

The Lake-Lehman School Board will hold a combined committee-of-the-whole and regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 in the junior/senior high school library.



Being sworn in as new Dallas School Board members are, from left, Fred Parry, Larry Schuler and Colleen Slocum.

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board members take office

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

The Dallas School Board inducted three new members and re-elected members at its annual reorganization meeting Monday night.

New board members Fred Parry, Larry Schuler and Colleen Slocum and current board members Bruce Goeringer and Catherine Wega were sworn into office by Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Judge Thomas Burke.

Schuler is a former teacher within the district. Parry owns a use car dealership in Luzerne and is a lifelong Dallas resident. Slo-

cum, a Dallas School District parent, has a background in sales.

The three new board members replace Dennis Gochoel Jr., Russell Bigus and Gary Mathers, who successfully ran for the position of Kingston Township supervisor.

Wega was selected as president of the board, a position previously held by Goeringer. Goeringer was elected as vice president.

Wega, Parry and board member Karen Kyle will serve as representatives on the West Side Career and Technical Center Joint Operating Committee until 2014.

Slocum was selected to serve as assistant secretary and as a member of the Parents Advisory Council, and Goeringer and

Schuler will share representation on the Back Mountain Memorial Library Board.

At a meeting that immediately followed, Bob Nesbit of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates gave the board an update on the high school construction project.

Nesbit presented several change orders to the board totaling \$14,209. The change orders include work on sidewalks in the middle school parking lot, electrical revisions to the prototyping lab and nurses' station and other electrical issues.

The board will vote on the change orders at its next meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 in the administration building next to Wycallis Elementary.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Residents urge supers to oppose state legislation

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

"It's probably one of the worst pieces of legislation that I've ever seen in terms of undermining control of local municipalities."

Jack Varaly
Planning consultant

Dallas Township officials were urged by residents to continue expressing opposition against pending state legislation that would supersede local zoning laws.

Resident Diane Dreier requested that the board of supervisors ask the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors to withdraw the group's approval of House Bill 1950 and Senate Bill 1100, which address oil and natural gas development.

Supervisors recently approved an amendment to the township zoning ordinance that places extensive regulations on natural gas activity. Township officials have also reached an agreement with two natural gas companies who plan to construct gathering pipelines to connect to the Transco inter-

state pipeline. The pending legislation, if passed, would overrule the township's yearlong effort to control gas development. The two different pieces of legislation have passed in their respective legislature bodies, but both

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JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Tax rates will remain stable

By Eileen Godin
Dallas Post Correspondent

Tax rates will hold steady for 2012, but residents will face a sewer rate increase, Jackson Township supervisors announced during Monday night's meeting.

The proposed 2012 budget is available for public review

in the municipal office. It will be voted on during a special meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. on December 22 in the municipal building.

Currently, the mill rate is at 1.32. A mill is \$1 per every \$1,000 assessed tax value.

"No increase, we tried to hold the line," supervisor Al Fox said. "We have done our preliminary budget showing a

surplus. It is all contingent on reimbursements from FEMA and they are coming in to take a look at our request."

He said the 2012 proposed budget hinges upon what is allowable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for reimbursement of funds which were spent to clean up

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